

Moravian Parsonage
Friedensfeld
St. Croix
Virgin Islands

HABS No. VI-58

HABS
VI
1-FRIE,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MORAVIAN PARSONAGE

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2-2

Location: Friedensfeld, St. Croix Island, Virgin Islands

General Statement:

Architectural character: The original design is not known. The wood second story appears to be an early replacement of the original wood superstructure. The Mission House varies in plan, roof shape, and in some finishes from the typical Moravian architecture of the islands, but in construction and use of materials, it follows the local building tradition.

Condition of fabric: The building is well constructed but in poor condition both structurally and in regard to finishes.

EXTERIOR

Detailed Description:

Orientation: The long axis of the building lies in an north-south direction.

Foundations: The foundation is coursed and cut limestone laid in a lime mortar. It is expressed on the exterior by a slightly projecting plinth approximately 1' x 6" above the ground level.

Wall construction: The ground floor has masonry wall constructed of coursed and cut limestone laid in lime mortar. The masonry is patterned with narrower horizontal courses below the window sill and above window heads. The second floor and gable ends are of clapboarded wooden frame construction.

Side walls of dormers are shingled.

Openings:

Doorways & doors: The first floor has one carriage entrance in the south gable and two doors in the west side of the building. The main entrances are in the second floor. They are in the center bays of the side wall and are reachable by masonry stairs on each side of the building.

The carriage entrance has a rail and board gate. The other ground floor entrances have storm doors of double-board construction. The second floor entrances have exterior storm shutters of double-board construction and three-sectioned interior double doors. The upper two sections of the doors have jalousies with movable louvres. The lower section has a solid panel.

The door openings have plain casings.

Windows and shutters: The ground floor window openings have shutters of double-board construction. There is no sash.

The second floor windows are equipped with two-panelled shutters with double-hung sash (6-above-6). The window openings have plain casings with a drip cap at the head and a slightly projecting sill. The windows to the loft, in the gable ends and in the dormers, are similar to the second floor windows.

Roof shape: The building has a gable roof covered by corrugated metal roofing on wooden sheathing.

There is no cornice, but gable ends have moulded eaves. The east side of the building has three dormers. The center one is above the entrance and its front is in the same plane as the wall below it. The side dormers are pulled approximately 5 feet back from the east wall. There are no chimneys.

Stoops: As mentioned above, the second floor entrances are reached by two brick staircases with outward curving sidewalls and rails terminating in cylindrical newel posts.

INTERIOR

Plan: The building is 6 by 7 bays. The length of the building is divided into three sections of two-, three-, and two-bays long respectively. The center section is divided into two rooms and the end sections into three rooms each. An enclosed wooden staircase in the central section provides access to the attic and the ground floor.

Floors: Ground floor has brick, concrete and limestone pavements. All other floors are tongue-and-groove pine boarding.

Wall finishes: All interior walls are plastered. The wooden frame walls are sheathed in vertical boarding and painted. Ceilings are wood with exposed beams or rafters throughout. The second floor rooms have baseboards and moulded door casings ceiling moulds and, in some rooms, chair rails.

Hardware: Shutters, gates and storm doors have wrought-iron strap hinges, sill and head hooks and, in some instances, bar brackets. Interior doors have wing and L hinges, porcelain door knobs, box locks and wrought-iron latches.

General Setting: The building is situated approximately 25 yards northwest of the Fredensfeld Moravian Church. An access road runs along the east side of the building. To the west, it faces a yard formed by the Mission's farm buildings and shops.